

FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets USGS Quad Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

29	Millers Falls	K	See data sheet
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Photograph



View west from East Main Street.

Town/City: Montague

Place (*neighborhood or village*):
Millers Falls Village

Name of Area: Millers Falls

Present Use: Residential and commercial

Construction Dates or Period: 1870 - 1915

Overall Condition:
Good - Fair

Major Intrusions and Alterations:
None

Acreage: 12.52

Recorded by: Elizabeth Giannini

Organization: Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Date (*month/year*): February 2016

Locus Map

☒ *see continuation sheet*



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☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

Millers Falls Village in Montague is the commercial and residential corridor of buildings fronting on Bridge Street, East Main Street, West Main Street and Church Street. There are 49 commercial, residential, and institutional buildings within this area. Millers Falls Village is the second largest five villages in the town of Montague. Millers Falls is unique because it spans the north and south sides of the Millers River, and is located in both the towns of Erving and Montague. The Montague section of Millers Falls has residential development laid out on small lots along Bridge Street, Church Street, and West Main Street. There is a commercial core that is located along East Main Street and near the junction of East Main Street, West Main Street and Bridge Street that runs through this area. Millers Falls developed into a commercial and residential village form as the result of industrial development (tool and paper factories) in the neighboring "Erving side" section of the village located to the north of the Millers River in the town of Erving. Although the mills which prompted the growth and expansion of the village during the late 1800s and early 1900 are located to the north of the Millers River in Erving, the commercial core of the village developed in Montague.

Bridge Street connects to the bridge across the Millers River to Erving. The village cross roads is at the intersection of Bridge Street, East Main Street, West Main Street and Church Street. Church Street is a hill that connects to a bridge over the railroad tracks that are to the south and east of the village center.

There are no National Register of Historic Places listed properties within Millers Falls. An area form was completed for Millers Falls in 1978. Additionally individual inventory forms were completed for eight buildings: 38 East Main Street (MNT.147), 26-28 (previously number 30) East Main Street (MNT.139), 41 East Main Street (MNT.146), 25 East Main Street (MNT.140), 28 Bridge Street (MNT.138), 17 West Main Street (MNT.144), 9 West Main Street (MNT.145) and 5 Church Street (MNT.143).

In 1868 James Moore petitioned the Franklin County Commissioners to lay out Bridge Street and the bridge across the Millers River from Grout's Corner to the Millers Falls Tool Company factory in Erving. The manufacturing company's move from Greenfield to Millers Falls was a key event to the development of the village. An improved connection from the Grout's Corner Depot to the factory to the north of the Millers River was needed (Franklin County Commission record files). Bridge Street was laid out in the early 1870s with narrow deep lots which is reflected in the many houses that were constructed with a gable front form to the street and a narrow and deep layout. This lot layout was depicted on a survey plan on record at the Franklin County Registry of Deeds Book Plan Book 2, Page 5, filed in 1870.

23 Crescent Street (Noyes House) is located at the corner of Crescent Street and Bridge Street. It is a two and a half stories, three bays wide, and three bays deep. It has no identifiable style. There is a wide front gable roof and across the façade is a shed roof porch supported by half length posts above a solid railing. There are replacement windows. The second story has two windows and one window in the gable field. An undated historical photo labels this house as

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the "Noyes House". Hebert E. Noyes, 74, retired, and Leonard R. Noyes, 21, an employee of the Millers Falls Tool Company, are listed as living in this house in the 1940 Montague Town Street List. In an earlier Montague Street List, Herbert was listed as a laborer and living at the house next door. The picture reflects a shed roof entry portico on the east elevation of the house instead of the existing porch.

3 Bridge Street is also known as Mackin's Block. It is a two story brick commercial building with a flat roof. It has been converted for residential use. It is four bays wide with brick pilasters separating the bays beneath a steel lintel. There are entries in the second and fourth bays. At the floor level, the commercial storefront windows have been blocked in and smaller windows inserted. The second story is three bays wide made up of paired windows under segmental arches that have contrasting concrete springings and keystones. There is a building title block above the center bay.

6 Bridge Street (1871) has no style but appears to be one of the oldest surviving houses in the district (1871 Beers Map). It is a side gable form. It is three bays wide and one bay deep with a one story ell in the back. The first floor windows are a two part composition with large, fixed light pane below a transom. The second story windows are set close to the eaves. It has a center chimney. It is clapboard-sided with an asphalt shingle roof.

This early lot and house footprint were depicted on a Beers Map of the area dated 1871. The map shows that the house lots had been divided but only a few houses had been built. The 1871 Beers map shows 6 Bridge Street as being owned by M. Newton. Research completed through the Franklin County Registry of Deeds documents that Moses Newton bought this land from the Millers Falls Company. He sold the house to John D. Lynch in 1877. John D. Lynch is listed in the 1895 Montague Town Street List as a 51 year old mechanic. John D. Lynch sold the house to Henry M. Goff in 1902. Henry M. Goff is also listed as a mechanic. In the 1895 street list he lived in Mr. Lynch's house and was 30 years old. The registry of Deeds records reflect that Mr. Goff and his family continued to own this house until 1945 when his daughter sold it to Theodore and Mary Agnes Dale. The 1950 Montague Street Lists includes Herbert T. Dale, 44, an employee of Millers Falls Paper and Mary A. Dale, 42, a housewife as living in the house.

The 1871 Beers Map depicts the other lots laid out on Bridge Street but does not show any other houses. Registry of Deeds records indicate that these lots were created in 1869 and individual deeds record their sale by the Millers Falls Company many during the early and mid 1870s. A panoramic view of Millers Falls dated 1886 shows Bridge Street, Main Street and the village developed. Many of the houses on Bridge Street have common elements such as front gables and porches with post and railing detail work.

7 Bridge Street (ca. 1894) (W. G. Stebbins) is a two and a half story L plan house with a front gable and a two story wing. The main block is three bays wide with a hipped roof porch on wrought iron posts. There are vinyl replacement windows and asbestos siding under a slate roof. The house has a wing with an ell on its rear elevation. The ell has a secondary entry under a portico on the south side, which is set on Italianate consoles. There is a stone foundation. The roof has no returns. An undated historical photo associates this house with W.G Stebbins. According to the 1908 Town of Montague Street list William G. Stebbins was 50 years old, a mechanic, and lived in a house that he owned on Bridge Street. In 1930 the Montague Street List provided exact addresses and Mr. William G. Stebbins is listed as living in this house. He is 72 years old and retired. His wife Stella Stebbins also 72 years old lives with him.

7 Bridge Street garage is a simple one story garage with a hipped roof.

8 Bridge Street (E. B. Marvel house) is a two story modest Queen Anne style house with a front gable roof. It is three bays wide and two bays deep. There is a full-width porch on the east elevation. The half length porch posts have been

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recently replaced and there is scroll work with a solid railing. They rest on a solid railing and are ornate at the eaves by scrollcut brackets. There is a bay window on the south facing elevation. An undated historical photo associates this house with E. B. and Emma Marvel. The 1894 Montague Street list indicates that Edward (or Edwin B. or E. B.) Marvel was 45 and a mechanic. Later street lists indicate that he continued to live in his house with his wife while he was retired. Emma Marvel was listed as living in this house in 1937 at the age of 81.

10 Bridge Street is a two and a half story house under a front gable roof that makes returns. The house is Queen Anne in style but is transitional to Colonial Revival having window lintel ornament and an ornamental raking frieze. The full-width enclosed porch under a shed roof has a pediment above its entry and appears to have been enclosed as an alteration. The house has one/one vinyl replacement windows.

11 Bridge Street (James Browning House) is one of the best-preserved Queen Anne houses in the district. The house has a Latin cross plan under a slate roof. It is two and a half stories under a front gable roof. It has very tall proportions. There is a transverse gable on the south elevation. There is a side hall plan entry behind a full width shed roof porch on which are two cross gables, one of which marks the entry to the porch. Porch posts have bases and capitals and scroll cut bracketed at the eaves. The porch railing spindles are cut in a decorative pattern. There is an ell on the rear with an open porch that rests on posts and a cross gable. On the third floor there is a triple window composition with a lintel that is pedimented in the center. Paired one/one replacement windows. An undated historical photo associates this house with James Browning. The 1948 Montague Street List includes James S. Browning, 60, an employee of Millers Falls Paper and Margaret C. Browning, 60, housewife as the residents of this house.

There are a number of well preserved examples of Queen Anne houses in the district. 12 Bridge Street is a two and a half story house under a front gable roof. It has retained its Queen Anne details and serves as an example of the many houses of this style and era in Millers Falls. It is three bays wide and four bays deep. The bargeboard, king post truss, ornamental spindle work, and punch work at the front gable have been maintained. There is cap molding on the windows. The porch posts are bracketed at the eaves. The shed-roof porch is full-width and has square baluster railings, scroll work brackets at the eaves and Italianate square posts. The house is clapboard-sided and has a slate roof.

13 Bridge Street is a two story, gable front house. On the south elevation there is a two story porch on posts whose second story is glassed in. Windows have projecting molded lintels. The house has vinyl siding and vinyl replacement windows with one/one sash.

14 Bridge Street is one of several one and a half story L plan Queen Anne style houses in the district. One bay wide and two bays deep, the main block of the house has a front gable roof above a three-sided bay with 2/2 sashes. A hipped roof porch runs the length of the wing. It has a pedimented entry. The porch was later enclosed. The wing is four bays wide and one bay deep. The house has a slate roof and is vinyl sided.

15 Bridge Street is multi family housing complex. The west section is a two and a half story under a side gable roof with a south facing two story porch. There is a three sided bay window. It is three bays wide by three bays deep. It has vinyl siding and replacement windows. The next block further east is a two and a half story under a front gable. Two family two story porch three bays wide side hall plan entry. There is a connector side gable roof that has a front gable dormer on the roof. The entry is sheltered by a shed roof porch on posts.

16 Bridge Street is a commercial building with a stepped parapet on the front. It is an early 20th century commercial form. The parapet was installed as a form of advertising for the commercial building. It has a center entry with 2 store

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front windows on each side of the entry. There is a front end gable behind the parapet. The storefront windows and the door have been replaced.

18 Bridge Street is a modest two and a half story Queen Anne style house. It is three bays wide and two bays deep with an ell in the back. It has full length windows on the first floor on the facade. There is a porch across the front of the first floor that has turned porch posts and baluster railings. The ell has a side porch with a hipped roof which was added later and is enclosed. The house has asbestos siding.

19 Bridge Street is the Covenant Presbyterian Church (MNT.137). The building dates to 1949 when this building replaced the previous one which burned down. It is a one and a half story brick church with a front gable roof. On the west facade there is a projecting portico with colossal Doric columns. It rests on a low plinth made up of three steps and a concrete handicapped ramp. Spanning the roof is a two stage bell tower. The bell is the original one from the building that was consumed by fire in 1949. The first stage is square and solid. The second stage is a polygonal belfry with four arched openings with architrave surrounds at the top of which are keystones. The bell can be seen through the openings. There are narrow pilasters with a keystone at the peak. The church has a center entry with double leaf doors beneath a fan light whose mullions are turned. At each side are three part windows with six/six sash under fanlights. There is a one story wing on the south elevation with a center entry beneath a pedimented portico on braces.

20 Bridge Street is a two and a half story house under a front gable roof whose eaves make short returns. It is three bays wide and two bays deep. One the rear elevation is a two-story ell with a two-story side porch. At each story the porch rests on posts and above a solid railing. The building has large proportions. The roof is asphalt shingles. Vinyl siding and replacement windows obscure any other architectural details.

20 Bridge Street (garage) is a small hipped roof garage building with wooden batten doors.

21 Bridge Street is one of few Colonial Revival style buildings in Millers Falls. It has a side gable roof whose eaves make full returns in the gables. There is a centered, transverse gable on the west facade. Extending from the north elevation of the main block of the house is a two and a half story wing. Across the west façade of the wing is a one story porch that has been glass enclosed. The door on the west façade of the main block has a pedimented entry on triple posts above a solid railing. There are paired one/one replacement windows. In the gable field is a pair of Queen Anne multi-light windows. There is a slate roof and one small center chimney.

22 Bridge Street is a one and half story, front gable cottage. It is three bays wide and four bays deep. Vinyl siding and replacement windows obscure other building details. There is a shed roof enclosed porch on the house's facade.

23 Bridge Street (currently the Miller Falls Library) is a one story, brick building under a shed roof whose south spandrel is filled with clapboards. The building is one bay wide and three bays deep. The three bays are separated by pilasters. On the street façade are two large, fixed-light storefront windows at each side of a center entry.

24 Bridge Street is a common house form in Millers Falls. It has a front gable roof with thin eaves with no returns. It is a two and a half stories in height and is four bays wide and four bays deep. It has an ell extension on the back. There is a hipped roof enclosed porch at the first floor level across the façade. The modest style is asbestos sided and has replace windows that obscure other architectural details.

28 Bridge Street (Ward Block) (1899) was built by H. J. Ward as a two story building, and in 1930 a mansard third story was added. It is a French 2nd Empire commercial building located at the center of the Millers Falls Village. It was

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previously inventoried (MNT.138). It is an important building in Millers Falls. This building is an extremely visible and central to the commercial district. Its central location at the village's busiest intersection makes it a focal point of Millers Falls. It is the only building of its style in the area. It is three stories, three bays wide and three bays deep with a mansard roof. It is clapboard sided. On the first floor of the east façade, there is a cast iron storefront with two projecting storefront windows at each side of a recessed entry that has two doors. The storefront windows are large plate glass with transom lights above the windows and the doors are paneled in the lower half and glass in the upper half. On the south facing side there is a side door entry that is not recessed. It has also a door that is half paneled and half glass below a transom light. A slight overhang between first and second stories is ornamented with brackets. There are corner quoins on the second story level, and paired windows set wooden panels. On the third floor level windows have pedimented lintels supported by paired brackets. Sash in the windows is one/one. The exposed mansard roof on the third floor is slate. There is a secondary storefront on the south facing side of the building that is part of an ell. It is two bays wide and six bays deep. It has a center storefront with plate glass storefront windows. There is a multi-light transom with decorative glass and a name plate that reads "Ward's" which runs the length of this secondary storefront. The second story decorative panel below the eaves continues from the front part of the building to this back section of the building. This section of the building has a flat roof. The west facing wall has vinyl siding and an exposed brick foundation that is visible from the west side below the street level.

36 Bridge Street is a two and a half story house with a slate-covered side gable roof that has a transverse gable on the east elevation. It has tarpaper siding and an exposed basement on the north and west elevations. There is a wrap around hipped roof porch across the facade with half length posts and a solid railing. There are thin boxed eaves with no returns. It was originally a clapboard sided house as basement exposure reveals.

9 West Main Street is the only Stick Style house in the district. It was previously inventoried in 1978 (MNT.145). This building is both unique in style to Millers Falls and also located at a highly visible location at the western gateway to the village. It is two and a half stories, two bays wide and six bays deep. It has a front gable and a transverse gable on the west elevation. There is a carriage barn that is attached to the main house by a two story connecting wing. On the first floor level there is a shed roof porch with two front gables that rest on open work posts with wide capitals and tall bases. The posts are connected by arches. Within the gable field there is diaper work, and "Eastlake" open work. There are double ramp stairs to the full width porch. Lively patterned clapboards have been laid in patterns on the house. There is projecting three sided bay windows on the first and second floor of the west elevation. There is a shed roofed in-fill porch between the main block and the carriage house that rests on turned posts. The carriage barn is side gabled with a transverse gable centered on the south façade. It has an arched louvered window within the gable field. A cupola on the roof ridge has bracketed eaves and is topped by a finial.

12 West Main Street is a well preserved example of one of several one and a half story Queen Anne L plan houses in the district. It has a one story ell and a one and a half story attached carriage barn. The L plan portion of the house has a slate roof and the carriage house has an asphalt shingle roof. The front gable is one bay wide. There is one window on the first floor level with a transom. The wing is three bays wide and two bays deep. The windows are two/two sashes. There is a wrap around porch on the L plan main block of the house. The porch has turned porch posts with scroll cut brackets and baluster railings. The first ell has a secondary entry with a shed roof portico on single braces. The carriage barn has a shed roof over an entry with double leaf door. The roof has a wide eaves overhang.

13 West Main Street is a two and a half story Queen Anne style two family house. It is four bays wide and five bays deep. It is a front gable roof with full returns and a transverse gable on the west side. There is a pair of wood panel and glass

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entry doors on the front. The eaves at the south east corner are supported by a scrolled console on the second story level. The windows have projecting lintels. On the west side there is a paired window composition on the first floor level. A hipped roof wrap around porch replaces an original porch. The house is shingle sided and the two colors of the siding may reflect the previous clapboard and shingle materials. There are replacement windows.

13 West Main Street rear garage is a single bay garage.

14 West Main Street (maybe early 1880-1890) is a one and a half story Queen Anne style cottage under a steeply pitched front gable roof. It has a side hall plan entry beneath a small porch with a spindled frieze. The door surround is trabeated with pilasters at each side and half-length sidelights. The house has replacement windows.

16 West Main Street two family Queen Anne style two and a half story front gable with a wrap around porch with turned porch posts with scroll brackets at the eaves and square balusters in its railings. The two-family is horizontally divided. Vinyl siding and replacement windows obscure other architectural details.

17 West Main Street (MNT.144) was previously inventoried. It is a two and a half story Queen Anne style house with a front gable roof and a transverse gable on the west side. It is three bays wide and three bays deep with a one story ell in the back. There is a Queen Anne multi-light window on the second story level of the transverse gable and a diamond paned window on the third story level within the gable field. The front entry has half length sidelight windows. There is a center brick chimney and a brick foundation. The house has vinyl siding, replacement windows and the wrap around porch has replaced posts and railings.

17 West Main Street carriage barn is a one and a half story building with a side gable roof on which is a transverse gable. There are two garage doors on the first floor level and a window frame within the gable field that is covered with a wood panel.

19 West Main Street is one of several Queen Anne L plan houses in the district. The main block of the building has a centered, three-sided bay window. The center sash of the bay has diamond-shaped decorative lights in the upper sash. Across the wing is a shed-roofed porch with turned posts, scroll-cut brackets, and decorative panel railing. There are two entries to the house on the north façade – one in the wing and one in the main block. The south side of the wing's roof extends in a saltbox fashion to the first story. The roof is asphalt shingles and the house has a brick foundation, vinyl siding, and vinyl replacement windows.

20 West Main Street is a one and a half story Gothic Revival style house. It is a gable and wing. The house has an extremely steep roof which is sometimes referred to as a "lightning splitter". The west façade in its gable field has Gothic arched windows, and wide baluster corner boards appear to have been covered over by vinyl siding. The house has vinyl replacement windows. It is set on a high lot bordered by a stone embankment.

22 West Main Street (Dr. Stillman P. Woodbury's House) (1895) is a two and a half story Queen Anne style house under a front gable roof. It is one of several Queen Anne houses that retain their detail work. It is three bays wide and three bays deep with a two story ell, a one and a half story attached carriage house, and a one story attached garage. The main block of the house has a front gable roof with a transverse bay on its east elevation. The north façade of the house is sheltered by a shed roof porch with a pediment over its entry, scroll cut brackets, turned posts and turned baluster railings. Windows in the house have two/two sash. The transverse bay on the east elevation has a king post truss and bargeboard with scroll work in its gable. The gable of the north façade as evidenced by historical photos of the house is

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missing its king post truss, but retains its bargeboard with scroll work. The ell has a two-story porch on the east elevation. It has a pedimented entry at the first story and its roof is supported by turned balusters. The attached carriage house has a transverse gable on the east with a king post truss and bargeboard in its gable. There is a shed roof addition on the east elevation of the carriage house that obscures a portion of its elevation. Roofs of the house are slate-covered. The house is located on a high lot with a stone retaining wall. According to the Montague Street List, Dr. Stillman P. Woodbury, MD, began living in this house at the age of 37 with his wife Inez in 1895. They had previously been listed as residing on Bridge Street. Dr. Woodbury and Inez lived in this house until the late 1940s and early 1950s. Inez Woodbury was no longer listed as residing in the house in 1948, but Dr. Woodbury was listed as being 90 years old. He is last listed in 1950 at the age of 92.

26-28 East Main Street (Powers Block previously referred to as the Union Block) is a three-story brick, commercial building with a parapet on the north façade. The Powers Block was built in 1897 by John S. Powers, an illustrious merchant in Millers Falls. It was one of the first commercial buildings erected in the village following the devastating fire of 1895. It is one of several significant brick commercial buildings in the village. The main block is three bays wide and two bays deep. There is a commercial storefront on the first floor whose center door is flanked by display windows. The door and storefront windows are now covered by wood. The building is three bays wide. On the second floor there are three segmentally arched windows. On the third floor there are two segmentally arched windows. Beneath the eaves is a metal cornice with festoons in its frieze. At each end of the cornice are metal consoles, one of which retains its finial. There is a name panel with "Powers Block" above the frieze and cornice. The main block of the building is followed by an ell that is three bays long, followed by a second ell that is five bays long for a rectangular plan. On the west elevation of the main block there are two segmentally arched windows on the second floor level one of which is partially bricked over with a smaller replacement window inserted, and the third has no fenestration. The first ell is under a front gable roof. There are half length segmentally arched windows on the first floor level that are bricked in. All of the windows in the building have rough granite sills. The first and second floor levels of the ells have segmentally arched windows that have two/one sash. The second ell is under a side gabled roof. It is three and a half stories in height. There is a pedestrian entry and three full-length windows facing the west elevation. The building retains its original windows with lintels in low relief.

25, 27, 29 East Main Street (the Equi Block 1902-03) is a two story Italianate commercial building whose wide eaves overhangs are supported by brackets. The building is four bays wide and two bays deep. On the south elevation two of the storefronts retain their original features and two of the storefronts are bricked over. The two original storefronts have recessed doors flanked by storefront display bays. Crossing above the first floor storefronts is a narrow cornice ornamented with thin brackets. The first and second floors are separated and ornamented by string courses. Paired windows with transom lights on the second floor have continuous stringcourse sills and lintels. Arched porticos on braces above entry doors and octagonal windows are alterations of the original first floor storefronts.

30 East Main Street is a two and a half story building under a front gable roof. On the north façade there is a parapet wall. The building is three bays wide and eight bays deep. At the first story the bays are divided entry with transom flanked by two storefront windows. There is a sign board on the front between the first and second floor. There are simple flat window surrounds and broad corner pilasters that rise to a frieze. A skirt board frames the building on the base of its exposed elevations. There is a secondary entry on the east reached by a new entrance with stairs and a porch. Windows at the first floor level have one/one and two/two sash.

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33 East Main Street is a one- story concrete block building with a brick veneer on its north façade. Above the roof level on the north façade a parapet wall used for a sign. The north façade is five bays long and its entrance is in the westernmost bay. The remaining four bays are fixed light display windows some of which have been closed to allow advertising.

34 East Main Street is a two story building under a front gable roof with thinly boxed eaves. It is three bays wide and three bays deep. Now in the process of rehabilitation, the first floor of the façade has a recessed entry flanked by store front windows. A new deck has been constructed at the building's southeast corner.

34 East Main Street Rear this is a two-and-a-half story frame building under a front-gable roof with thinly boxed eaves. At first story level it is a single-bay garage. New windows are being installed and the building rests on tall concrete foundations.

37 East Main Street two story framed building under a low pitched roof with four chimneys the north façade has been totally altered four bays wide and ten bays deep.

38 East Main Street is a three and a half story building under a hipped roof. This large scale building was the Miller's Falls Hotel and O'Keefe's Hotel which was established by Thomas O'Keefe in 1897. The building was sold after O'Keefe's death and converted to apartments. It has hipped roof dormers on three sides of the roof. The main block of the building is one bay wide and nine bays deep, followed by a three story ell that is three bays deep and has a shed roof. The building retains its tar paper siding on the third story on the east and west elevations. The building has lost its front and side three story porches as evidenced from historical pictures of the building. On the north or street façade, there is a shed roof portico on posts sheltering a double ramp staircase that leads to a center entry with a single transom light. The original four bay façade has been altered so that there is only a single centered window at each story. There is a metal fire escape building on the west side of the building. It has a brick foundation and asphalt roof. The basic form remains from the original building, though loss of the porches and application of vinyl siding now alters the building significantly. The east elevation has a one story addition the last bay of which rises to two stories under a slightly sloping shed roof.

41 East Main Street (Augustus Ross) (Amidon Block) (1900) building is a two story Renaissance Revival brick commercial building with a flat roof. The south façade is divided into three bays by pilasters. The two outer bays are storefront windows and the center bay is recessed and contains three doors. The storefront windows are fixed lights below two-light transoms. The doors are glass in the upper half and wood panels in the lower half. The second story windows are three pairs of segmentally arched windows with granite sills. There is ornamental brownstone between the first and second stories. On the north elevation there is a two-layer corbeled brick cornice. The building is ten bays deep and attached at first story level on the east elevation is a one-story wing. Windows of the main block are only exposed on the second floor. The side entry of the wing is recessed and has a wood paneled intrados. The secondary storefront is partially sealed and its lintel is supported by a single cast iron decorative pilaster. The main building has two interior chimneys. There is a stone cap on the perimeter of the roof. Because of the slope the basement is exposed on the west elevation.

3 Church Street is a modest front gable two and a half story with a two and a half story ell with a one story ell. There is a three sided tower on the front elevation. There is a front gable portico in front on single posts. Vinyl siding and window replacements obscure other architectural details. Ell on the east has a porch that was later enclosed. A metal chimney was added on the outside of the north elevation.

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4 Church Street is a one and a half story Queen Anne house that is gable and wing in form. It is one of several gable and wing form houses in Millers Falls. It is three bays wide four bays deep, and the wing is one story in height with an attached garage. Crossing both the main block of the house and its wing is a porch with half length turned porch posts ornamented with scroll cut brackets at the ornamental frieze beneath the porch roof eaves. The posts rest on a solid railing. There is a center chimney on the slate-covered roof. The house's replacement windows and vinyl siding obscure details such as the window surrounds.

5 Church Street (house) is a two and a half story Colonial Revival style building under a slate-covered, pyramidal hipped roof. It is three bays wide and has pedimented dormers on the south, east, and west elevations. On the street façade, there is a glass enclosed entry porch flanked by windows at each side eight/two sash. Entry to the porch is through a paneled door below a transom light. The second story of the façade has a three part window composition with four/one sash at each side of an eight/two middle sash. Open shed roof porch on the west is supported on posts. The house is vinyl sided and has replacement windows.

5 Church Street (St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church) (MNT 143) was built in 1897 by S.D. Munroe Company and officially dedicated in 1898. The church was designed by the ecclesiastical architect Timothy G. O'Connell, and St. John's Church in Millers Falls was one of his first designs. Timothy G. O'Connell (1868-1955) was an American architect whose Boston-based practice specialized in ecclesiastical design. It is a late Gothic Revival style in meetinghouse form. That is, it has a center tower appended to the main block of the building. The main block is under a hipped roof with transverse gable. The center block of the church is one and a half stories in height and as it is on a sloping lot there is a fully exposed basement on the north and west elevations. On the east façade adjacent to the center tower is a shallow projecting pavilion. The tower is at the first floor level has a single entry sheltered by a portico on posts. The second story of the tower has paired gothic pointed arched windows with arched muntins. The second stage of the tower is square and at corner of its roof is a boxed spire. The third stage of the tower is octagonal with windows. The belfry is octagonal and alternates with double arched openings and single arched opening and over the single arches are pediments. The spire is octagonal. The vinyl-sided church is unique in design in western Massachusetts.

9 Church Street is a simple modest one and a half story gabled-roof cottage. It is three bays wide and three bays deep. It has a full width porch under a hipped roof on its street façade. The porch is supported by turned Queen Anne posts connected by a railing with a carved handrail. Similar to other houses in Millers Falls it has thin boxed eaves with no returns. On the south elevation there is a through cornice dormer at the roof line. Asbestos siding and replacement windows obscure other architectural details.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this relates to the historical development of the community.

Millers Falls is one of five villages in the town of Montague. Millers Falls had a significant period of development during the Late Industrial Period (1870-1915) during a time of growth for the local tool and paper factories. The village's streetscapes and architecture have maintained the form and style from that period.

Prior to this Late Industrial Period development, the Millers Falls area served as important seasonal grounds for Native Americans and late the Colonial settlers who traveled through the area. During the Contact Period (1500-1620), Plantation Period (1620-1675) and Colonial Periods (1675-1775), the greater Millers Falls area was part of the major north-south route from the Connecticut Valley (Montague) to Squakeag (Northfield). Fishing occurred at Millers Falls on both the Erving and Montague sides of the river. However, little evidence of this early occupation survived. (*Massachusetts Historical Commission Reconnaissance Survey Reports, Connecticut*

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Valley 1984 and Montague 1982). During these periods, the nearby Connecticut River and Millers Rivers served as a source of transportation and food.

The early Colonial occupants of Millers Falls grew crops and livestock, and harvested lumber. Very little residential construction was documented from this time and no buildings are known to have survived. During the Federal Period (1775-1830), the east-west travel route along the Millers River was improved as the construction of the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike was authorized by a Legislative Act passed on March 3, 1799. This transportation route opened a direct link from Greenfield to the eastern part of the state. The Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike was constructed from Greenfield on a route that traveled to the south of Turners Falls, crossed the Millers River at Millers Falls, and continued east on a route on the north side of the Millers River. Millers Falls was also a juncture on the north-south highway to Northfield on Forest Street (Route 63). (*The Turnpikes of New England*, Kerr, Ronald Dale, 1997).

As documented in *The History of Montague* by Edward Pearson Pressey (1910), in 1810 the mail coach departed from Greenfield at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, and arrived in Boston on Monday afternoon. In 1819, there were two stages per week starting at 3:00 a.m., and arrived in the evening on the same day. By 1924, there were three stages operating per week between Greenfield and Boston, and Martin Grout was operating a tavern at the Millers River on the turnpike line. "The first drinks out of Greenfield going east and on the return trip travelers at one time spent the night here getting into Greenfield in the morning (Taggart)." Grout was born in Pelham, Massachusetts in 1790. The town became known as Grout's Corner, until 1868 when the Millers Falls Company was founded in Erving just north of the Millers River and the name was changed.

Maps from ____ reflect the tavern and the railroad line and stop but not much more at Grout's Corner. The area was farmland.

In 1838 Oliver Moore purchased 100 acres of land in Erving and Montague on the Millers River. He envisioned the development of water power and the growth of a village. In 1956, the land was still covered in woods. On June 7th 1848 Oliver sold the land to his son James. However, this land ultimately played a critical role in the development of the Village of Millers Falls as it became the land that the Millers Falls Manufacturing Company would relocate to in 1869 and relocated their factory for access to water power and railroad lines at Grout's Corner. Although never an officer in the organization, James Moore was one of the major investors involved in founding the Millers Falls Mfg. Company by virtue of his ownership of the one-hundred-acre tract that became home to the company's factory. (*More About the old Saw Mills*, Gazette and Courier, Greenfield, MA)

The extension of the railroad into and through the area played a critical role in the development of the village of Millers Falls. Significant railroad connections were made at Grout's Corner during the 1860s. The Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad extension to Miller's Falls had opened in 1848, and to Brattleboro, Vermont in 1850. Later in 1850, a branch from Grout's Corner west to Greenfield, Massachusetts opened. The original main line north from Miller's Falls was leased to the Rutland Railroad in 1870, which leased itself to the Vermont Central Railroad in 1871, which became the Central Vermont Railroad in 1872. This was a continuation of the New London Northern Railroad, built south from Miller's Falls in 1867 and also leased to the Vermont Central in 1871. In 1874 the Fitchburg Railroad leased the rest of the V&M, extending its line west to Greenfield and beyond. With this new railroad juncture and the water power of the falls at Grout's Corner it was a perfect place to establish mills. This resulted in Millers Falls becoming the cross roads for rail and a center of significant economic activity. By the end of the Civil War in 1865, both Millers Falls and Turners Falls in Montague were being established as major manufacturing centers.

The Late Industrial Period (1870-1915) was a time of growth and development in Millers Falls that was prompted by the development of the Miller Falls Company in 1869. The Millers Falls Company was established in Greenfield, Massachusetts in 1868 as Gunn & Amidon by Levi J. Gunn and Charles H. Amidon. Gunn and Amidon, along with a third partner, Henry L. Pratt built a factory in the north of Greenfield. After the Greenfield factory burned down, the company was reorganized as the Millers Falls Manufacturing Co., and built a factory on the 100 acres of land of that was purchased from James Moore in Grout's Corner. Once the factory came there was fast paced development of the village.

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A petition was submitted by James Moore and others to the Board of Commissioners for the County of Franklin to build a new road between the depot at Grout's Corner across the Millers River to the Millers River Manufacturing Company on the Erving side of the Millers River dated December 17, 1868. The petition was acted on to lay out the road the following year. Grout's Corner was renamed as Millers Falls in 1968. The development of Millers Falls occurred as a result of the factory being established and workers coming to Millers Falls. The town street lists documents the residents of Millers Falls being employed by the Millers Falls Manufacturing Company. With the influx of workers, the need for housing grew and the area along Bridge Street was developed. The period from 1870-1880 it was a significant period of development.

The Millers Falls Paper Company was constructed in around 1902 and another large scale manufacturing operation was established in Millers Falls. Much of the growth occurred during the first five years of the period and can be attributed to the new paper mills that went into operation at Millers Falls and Stoneville. Millers Falls continued to expand as a residential district during this time. This is reflected in the fact that almost all of the houses built in Millers Falls date from the Late Industrial Period. The Massachusetts Registry of Deeds land records, document the sales of many of the residential building lots on Bridge Street by the Miller Falls Company during the period 1872-1877.

Additionally, the 1894 Montague Town Street List was the earliest at the town hall reflect that the people who lived in the town worked for the Millers Falls Company and later the Millers Falls Paper Company. Others were merchants or worked in jobs that served the community such as business owners, merchants, town doctor or hotel clerk. Many of the houses had boarders.

The East Main Street commercial thoroughfare in town developed early in the history of Grout's Corner. The 1871 Beers Atlas reflects the businesses that existed there.

According to an article in the *Turners Falls Recorder*, a fire destroyed the business portion of the downtown, some residential dwellings and the Congregational Church on Wednesday, November 6th, 1895. O'Keefe Hotel, the brick block owned by the Millers Falls Company (Union Block) and S.H. Amidon's block were among the buildings that were destroyed. At the time of the fire Millers Falls did not have a fire department so the town was at the mercy of the flames. Neighboring fire departments from Greenfield, Northampton and Orange arrived by train. The newspaper report stated that the fire started in the carpenter shop in the rear of Amidon's block on Main Street, and quickly spread across the street. The businesses that were reported to have been destroyed in the Union Block were the Jenks and Mooney dry goods notions boots and shoes and T. B. Stratton Grocery Store located on the first floor and Union Hall on the second floor. The businesses destroyed in S. H. Amidon's three story wooden block included first floor E. M. Partridge, druggist, W.F. Everett jeweler, J.H. Sears groceries. Mrs. Amidon's millinery store was on the second floor and Dr. George A. Cook's office. Thomas O'Keefe's hotel was a three story building with 35 rooms. Other buildings owned by Mr. O'Keefe were burned. Reed Brothers Market was in one of them. A building owned by M. Smith and occupied by Mrs. Shay of Athol millinery was burned. W. A. Johnson's two and a half story wooden building was burned. It was occupied by L.D. Elmer Newsroom, C.L. Cook variety store, William Mayhew barber shop, and a tenement upstairs. The post office, house and barn of Fred King were also destroyed, as well as the house and barn of Michael Moran.

The commercial section of the downtown was rebuilt quickly during the period from 1895-1902.

The growth and development of Miller Falls was closely tied to the manufacturing industries that were located in the neighboring Erving section of Millers Falls. The businesses located in town served the clientele of town. The decline of the downtown was closely tied to the economics of the nearby manufacturing industry.

In 1962 the Millers Falls Company was acquired by Ingersoll Rand, and later moved its manufacturing operations overseas. The Millers Falls Company's manufacturing building in Erving was taken over by the Renovator's Supply Company who operated their manufacturing operations there until the mid-1990s. The Millers Falls Paper Company closed in 2000.

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Many of the residential dwellings remained in the same family ownership. The population aged in place. According to the town street lists many of the residents were still employees of the Millers Falls Manufacturing and Millers Falls Paper Company in 1962.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Taggart, John as transcribed by Ed Gregory. *History of Millers Falls*. 1938-43 and transcribed in 2010-11.

Wood, Frederic J. *The Turnpikes of New England*. 1997. Branch Line Press, Pepperell, Massachusetts.

A Pictorial History of Miller Falls (on my phone)

Street Lists (1894-1962)

Other history Book

F. W. Beers and Co. Atlas, 1871.

Sanborn map

Panoramic map

Postcards

Massachusetts Land Records

I need to finish filling this in.

Photographs (All Photographs by Elizabeth Giannini, 2016)



Fig. 1: View of property at 9 West Main Street from the south (MNT.145).



Fig. 2: View of property at 12 West Main Street from the west.

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Fig. 3: A view of 13 West Main Street from the south.



Fig. 4: A view of 14 West Main Street from the north.



Fig. 5: A view of 17 West Main Street from the south (MNT.144).



Fig. 6: A view of 16 West Main Street from the north.



Fig. 7: A view of 19 West Main Street from the south.



Fig. 8: A view of 20 West Main Street from the west.

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Fig. 9: A view of West Main Street from the west.



Fig. 10: A view of 22 West Main Street from the northeast.



Fig. 11: A view of 25-29 East Main Street from the south.



Fig. 12: A view of 26-28 East Main Street from the northwest.



Fig. 13: A view of 33 East Main Street from the south.



Fig. 14: A view of 30 East Main Street from the north.

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Fig. 15: A view of 37 East Main Street from the south.



Fig. 16: A view of 34 East Main Street from the northeast.



Fig. 17: A view of 34 (Rear) East Main Street from the north.



Fig. 18: Historic Postcard of East Main Street looking east in 1917.

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Fig. 19: A view of 41 East Main Street from the southeast.



Fig. 20: A view of 38 East Main Street from the northwest.



Fig. 21: A view of East Main Street from the east.



Fig. 22: A view looking south on Bridge Street from the north.



Fig. 23: A view of 23 Crescent Street from the east.



Fig. 24: A view of 3 and 5 Bridge Street from the west.

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Fig. 25: A view of 6 Bridge Street from the east.



Fig. 26: A view of 7 Bridge Street from the west.



Fig. 27: A view of 8 Bridge Street from the east.



Fig. 28: A view of 11 Bridge Street from the west.



Fig. 29: A view of 10 Bridge Street from the east.



Fig. 30: A view of 13 Bridge Street from the west.

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Fig. 31: A view of 12 Bridge Street from the east.



Fig. 32: A view of 15 Bridge Street from the west.



Fig. 33: A view of 14 Bridge Street from the east.



Fig. 34: A view of 19 Bridge Street (MNT.137) from the west.



Fig. 35: A view of 16 Bridge Street from the east.



Fig. 36: A view of 21 Bridge Street from the east.

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Fig. 37: A view of 18 Bridge Street from the east.



Fig. 38: A view of 23 Bridge Street from the west.



Fig. 39: A view of 20 Bridge Street from the east.



Fig. 40: A view of Bridge Street looking from the north.



Fig. 41: A view of 22 Bridge Street from the east.



Fig. 42: A view of 24 Bridge Street from the east.

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Fig. 43: A view of 28 Bridge Street (MNT.138) (front view) from the east.



Fig. 44: A view of 28 Bridge Street (MNT.139) (side view of West Main Street elevation) from the south.



Fig. 45: A view of 36 Bridge Street from the east.



Fig. 46: A view looking north on Church Street.



Fig. 47: A view of 9 Church Street from the east.



Fig. 48: A front view of the St. John's Church (MNT. 143) at 5 Church Street.

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Fig. 49: A view of the St. John's Church (MNT. 143) at 5 Church Street from the north.

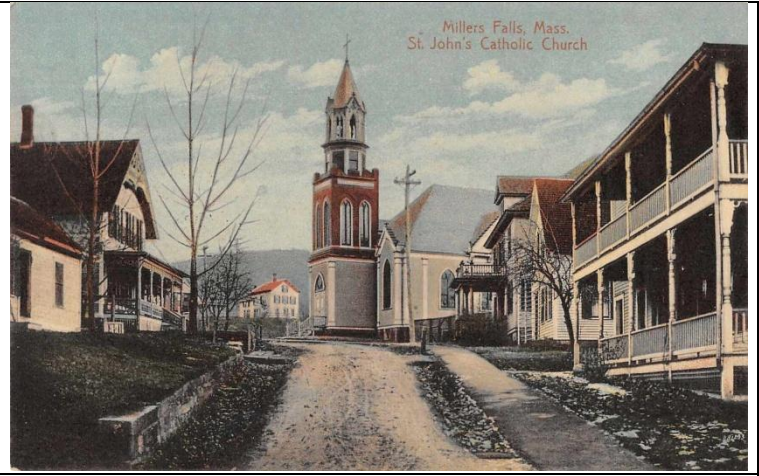


Fig. 50: Historic postcard of St. John's Church (ca. 1910).

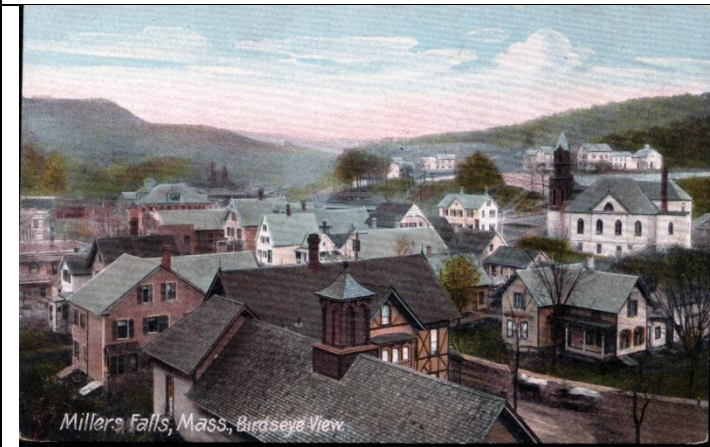


Fig. 51: Historic birdseye view postcard (ca. 1910)



Fig. 52: A view of 5 Church Street (house) from the east.



Fig. 53: A view of 3 Church Street from the east.



Fig. 54: A view of 4 Church Street from the west.

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[Delete this page if no Criteria Statement is prepared]

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☐ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
- ☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☒ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ **A** ☐ **B** ☒ **C** ☐ **D**

Criteria Considerations: ☐ **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G**

Statement of Significance by _____
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Millers Falls District meets criterion A as it represents a Late Industrial Period village. While two major manufacturing plants that employed many in Millers Falls were located in the neighboring town of Erving, the commercial center of the village is the Montague section of Millers Falls. It was the hub at the juncture of two major railroad lines, and the town was attractive to both small and large manufactures. The population doubled during the period 1870 and 1900.

Following criterion C, the town remains an excellent example of a small, New England mill town that has retained its architectural character and pedestrian scale streetscape. The commercial district reflects the once lively commerce center and the residential areas surrounding the center. While there have been some alterations many of the buildings retain the architectural features and cohesive style. This cohesive style reflects the residential building that housed the workers in the manufacturing.